

NECCS Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS (I)

The Newark Educators' Community Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

Additional Parent resources and links are available at:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/program/parent/>

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Newark Educators’ Community Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Host Annual Open House
 - Distribute Parents’ Right-to-know letter (issued August 24, 2011)
 - Coordinate school wide fundraisers to finance learning enrichment activities such as field trips, guest speakers, school supplies, books, etc.
 - Circulate Monthly newsletter, *The Bee Hive*, with grade level highlights, student highlights, principal updates, family council updates, staff and administrative updates
2. The Newark Educators’ Community Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Circulate Monthly newsletter, *The Bee Hive*, with grade level highlights, student highlights, principal updates, family council updates, staff and administrative updates
 - Conduct School Climate Inventory

- Annual survey distributed to all parents, faculty and administration
 - Assesses efficacy of school processes and communication
 - Gauges community members' satisfaction with school safety, resources, culture, and school environment overall
 - Establish a Family Council/PTA organization
 - Host Family Council Meetings monthly, open to all members of the community
 - Provide Bus tickets to local families for use of public transportation to and from school
 - Provide childcare during Family Council Meetings, Open Houses, and other parent events
3. The Newark Educators' Community Charter School will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- Host Family Council Meetings monthly, open to all members of the community
 - Organize Literacy training workshops for parents
 - Hosted by an experienced and highly qualified education specialist
 - Tips on how to prep your child for NJASK at home
 - Coordinate school wide fundraisers to finance learning enrichment activities such as field trips, guest speakers, school supplies, books, etc.
 - Conduct School Climate Inventory
 - Collaborate with United Way, KidsCorp & *NJ after 3* to host Book Giveaway Event
 - Each student will receive a book donated by United Way
 - United Way will host parent workshop about literacy, translating services and the importance of Reading as a Family.
4. The Newark Educators' Community Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- Host Quarterly Parent/Teacher conferences
- Establish a Family Council/PTA organization
- Host Family Council Meetings monthly, open to all members of the community
- Conduct School Climate Inventory
- Collaborate with United Way, KidsCorp & *NJ after 3* to host Book Giveaway Event
 - Each student will receive a book donated by United Way
 - United Way will host parent workshop about literacy, translating services and the importance of Reading as a Family.

1. The Newark Educators' Community Charter School will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

- Host Quarterly Parent/Teacher conferences
- Organize Literacy training workshops for parents
 - Hosted by an experienced and highly qualified education specialist
 - Tips on how to prep your child for NJASK at home
- Establish a Family Council/PTA organization

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Organize Literacy training workshops for parents
- Host Family Council Meetings monthly, open to all members of the community

- Coordinate school wide fundraisers to finance learning enrichment activities such as field trips, guest speakers, school supplies, books, etc.
 - Host Quarterly Parent/Teacher conferences
 - Establish a Family Council/PTA organization
 - Collaborate with United Way, KidsCorp & *NJ after 3* to host Book Giveaway Event
 - Each student will receive a book donated by United Way
 - United Way will host parent workshop about literacy, translating services and the importance of Reading as a Family.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- Conducting monthly staff meetings to discuss student progress and share ideas for parent involvement
 - Conduct a School Climate Inventory
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- Host Family Council Meetings monthly, open to all members of the community
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- Coordinate school wide fundraisers to finance learning enrichment activities such as field trips, guest speakers, school supplies, books, etc.
 - Publish meeting announcements in monthly newsletter, *The Bee Hive*.
 - Post flyers and notices on school premises

- Broadcast meeting dates on school website

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents’ capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

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PART IV. ADOPTION ()

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Newark Educators’ Community Charter School.

This policy was adopted by the Newark Educators' Community Charter School on October 25th, 2011 and will be in effect for the period of October 25th, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2011.



Xiania Foster, Lead Person

September 6, 2011
(Date)